

Amend as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 15, please amend the abstract of the disclosure as follows:

A spark plug for an internal combustion engine [s proposed, having] includes a middle electrode which has an electrode base body (5) with an end face (51) oriented toward the combustion chamber, to which end face a precious metal platelet (8) is attached. An end section (15) of the electrode base body oriented toward the combustion chamber is [embodied] formed in the shape of a truncated cone. The precious metal platelet (8) is likewise [embodied] formed in the shape of a truncated cone and the diameter of the end face (52) of the electrode base body oriented toward the combustion chamber corresponds to the diameter of the end face (84) of the precious metal platelet oriented away from the combustion chamber.[

] A method for producing middle electrodes for a spark plug of an internal combustion engine is also proposed[, in which an electrode base body (5) has a precious metal platelet (8) attached to it, the end face (51) of the electrode base body oriented toward the combustion chamber being attached to the end face (84) of the precious metal platelet oriented away from the combustion chamber. The precious metal platelet (8) and the end (15) of the electrode base body oriented toward the combustion chamber are then conically machined in a material-removing manner in such a way that an outer section (11) in the transition region between the precious metal platelet (8) and the electrode base

body (5) is removed, which section (11) differs in its micro-structure and/or composition from that of an inner section (12) of the transition region].